

**Move Ahead or
Get Left Behind Pg 8**



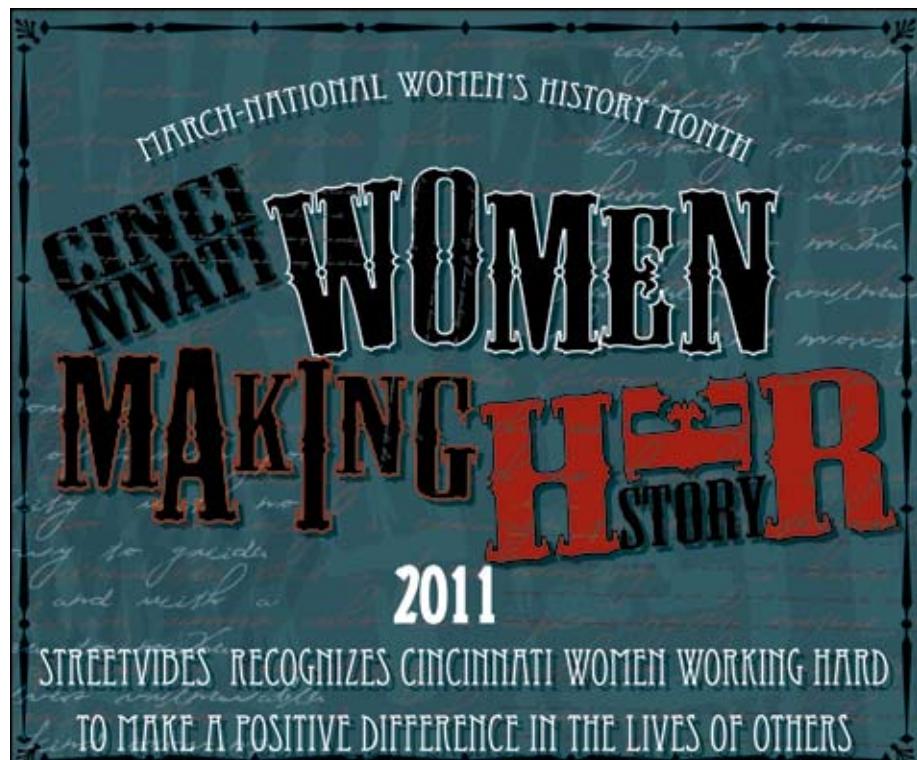
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**Congratulations
Judge
Painter**

March 1-14, 2011 • Issue 194 • One Dollar

STREETVIBES

ADVOCATING JUSTICE • BUILDING COMMUNITY



Pearla Kinne, The inspiring story of an Argentinian Immigrant who followed her dream to save lives, one companion animal at a time

By: PEARLA KINNE

A civil engineer by trade, at the time Perla Medina, an immigrant from Argentina, married Michael Kinne in 1990; she knew that animals would be an important part of her life. As other people their age were settling down and starting families, the Kinnes opted to adopt and rescue animals that needed special care and attention. Perla knew she had a knack for it. She thrived on providing critical and intensive care to her pets. For years the Kinnes adopted the old, terminally ill, black, and those that for whatever reason, would be a challenge to adopt out to forever homes. But every animal that others saw as a challenge, they viewed as a

welcome addition. "The reward for us was in watching them flourish and become beloved members of our family", she states. And that is how Angel's Rest Animal Sanctuary got its start, unknowingly at the time by the founder. So in 2009, the Kinnes decided to make it official. "We wanted to help animals on a larger scale", Perla says. Now Angel's Rest Animal Sanctuary located in New Richmond, Ohio, is doing just that, helping the unadoptable live as full and happy a life as they can possibly have.

Angel's Rest, whose mission is *SAVING LIVES, ONE COMPANION ANIMAL AT A TIME*, strives to help unwanted animals who have no place to go other than a kill-shelter to face euthanasia, die alone in the streets or abandoned at the end of a chain. Its goal is to take animals out of situations where they would be facing imminent danger and provide them with a comfortable place to spend the remainder of their lives, no matter how long it may be. They strive to provide everyone that enters their doors with the care they need and deserve to ensure that they live the rest

of their lives in peace, comfort, well fed and loved. While they deal mostly with older residents that will reside in the sanctuary for the remainder of their days, they actively rescue, rehabilitate and have pets for adoption. Of the animals rescued, some will be entering ELDER PAW™, a program designed to match older shelter animals with senior citizens, as long as their temperament matches with program requirements.

"Angel's Rest has been a life-long dream of mine. It is something I've wanted to do for a very long time and the time is finally here," says Perla. "Our sanctuary is growing a lot slower than I would prefer mostly due to limited funds and lack of a steady income stream. " Angel's Rest currently houses 6 dogs and 10 cats. Of the 16 current sanctuary residents, only one is healthy and is up for adoption. The rest are life-long residents who are facing a terminal illness, have a disability or exhibit some sort of behavioral issue which makes them "unadoptable".

"It has been a challenge starting a not-for-profit sanctuary during these difficult financial times, especially when donations are down across the board." Adding to the difficulty has been not having a facility where animals can be housed and where people can come to see how their hard-earned money is being put to good use. Currently, Angel's Rest houses animals at the founders' home as well as two family members' homes. "I find it very difficult conducting business without the benefit of having a building. You are not always taken seriously, especially when you are forced to hold meetings or interviews at the local coffee shop." Another downside of their current situation is the limitation not having a facility places on the number of animals they can help. "I get calls and e-mails constantly wanting us to take animals that fit our criteria and we cannot help them. We just cannot take any more in without jeopardizing the well being of the ones we are committed to. It is very hard to accept that as a no-kill sanctuary you may be responsible for an animal's death, all because you just cannot offer it a home



PEARLA KINNE

immediately."

Angel's Rest is planning on opening their first facility next month. "I am hopeful that the opening of Cat Village in March will help us move forward and grow a bit faster", says Perla. Cat Village will enable the dogs and cats to be housed separately. Having both species under the same roof has been a huge problem for us with the recent addition of Dixie, an 11-year old, three-legged bull mastiff that sees cats as prey. "Our cats are older and some have life-long ailments. They need a peaceful environment."

Along with Cat Village's opening, Angel's Rest will be opening a thrift store as well as a bingo operation in New Richmond in the near future to fund the sanctuary's operation and expansion. "The faster we can get these sources of income in place, the sooner we can start saving the lives of more animals. And, in the end, that is all that matters."

Angel's Rest relies solely on donations and the kindness of others. They are a 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information or to make a donation, please visit [www.angelsrestanimalshelter.org](http://angelsrestanimalshelter.org)



STACEY "SUN" SMITH
A Shining Inspiration

Stacey Smith recently changed her name to "Sun" after almost losing her mother to an illness in September.

JENI JENKINS. STAFF WRITER

She felt like she was re-born with a spiritual motivation that woke her up from a complacent place and now she lives each day as a new opportunity to make herself better. Her new name represents the light that shines inside of her – "it was always there but it has definitely been rejuvenated since September."

This born and raised Cincinnatian draws inspiration from her mother who made tremendous sacrifices to raise her and her three siblings working as a domestic worker. Her mother's strength drives Sun to work extra hard so she can take care of her as she gets older. Sun's greatest accomplishment came when her mother witnessed her graduate from Northern Kentucky University with her Bachelor's in Journalism and a minor in Sociology. As a first generation college student, having never walked for graduation in high school, this was a huge feat.



One of Sun Smith's designs from her SoapBoxTees Clothing line.

See Women's Herstory, P. 4

BY THE NUMBERS**75.5 Cents**

The amount of money an American woman makes for every dollar that men earn
(Page 2)

3.3 Billion

The amount of women in the world (Page 2)

3-10-11

The next meeting of the Homeless Congress (Page 3)

32

The years Patti Marshall, Operations Manager for Q102, B105, Rewind, and The Wolf has worked in radio. (Page 4)

1,528

The miles the Japanese light rail transportation system Shinkansen, reaches (Page 8)

60

The percentage of Zimbabweans that have HIV and are female (Page 11)

27

The years Judge Painter has been elected a trial and appellate judge (Page 14)

18

The age Kim Shiflett left her home in New Mexico to pursue her artistic goals. (Page 16)

Streetwise

"What if Prince Charming never showed up? Would Snow White have slept in that glass coffin forever? Or would she have eventually woken up, spit out the apple, gotten a job, a health care package, and a baby from her local neighborhood sperm bank?"

JEN MARTIN
EDITOR

I never really thought of myself as a feminist. I was walking into work the other day and Jeni Jenkins, our fabulous Education Director, asked me how I walk in my shoes. Anyone who knows me knows I love my shoes. Most are heels that raise me up 3 or more inches. There are probably tons of people who think I am a giant. I am about 5' without them so most days I appear about 6 feet tall. I don't have trouble walking in them, I actually feel weird and less confident without them. I don't wear them to look more attractive, I wear them because they are beautiful and they make me feel that way. When I started working with a friend of mine, he made the movie poster 'Attack of the 50 Foot Woman' his screen saver as a nod to my height illusion. Illusion, the word I often use when people ask how tall I am. I typically explain that I am not this tall, it is just an illusion. Or as Chris Rock says, it's just a lie. Women are visual liars. And yes, Mr. Rock, we are.

Being a modern American woman is not an easy task. I believe men tend to think women can control the way feel sometimes. I am not saying we are completely incapable, saying that would mean a woman couldn't be president because she would... oh what is the quote? I think it's something like "A woman can't be president because she'll get her period and declare war." That is just silly but the fact remains that women are more emotional due to these insane hormones we have. Add those hormones to pregnancy, motherhood, the day in day out life of being subjected to men's advances (even when we don't want to hear them), and Mother Nature's cruel joke called menstruation; and it is truly amazing that women are right on par with men these days. In fact, modern women need men for practically nothing. Women can make just as much money (even though we have to work harder since women make only 75.5 cents for every dollar that men earn, according to a report by the U.S. Census Bureau). And if there is one thing I have learned in my life, only one thing I could pass on to any girl who hopes to achieve their dreams; it would be to simply make your own money, to have your own plan. If you do count on a man, chances are likely there will come a day you may have to reevaluate and start from scratch. Which it seems many women in the US don't have a problem doing. And it's damn hard when you go it alone without a backup plan; such has been my life for the past year. And I am not nearly alone in my plight. In 2010, 46% of first marriages in the US ended in divorce. It isn't a crazy statistic when you consider that money is the top reason for arguments within a marriage. We have learned that marriages of financial obligation are just that, obligation. Women these days don't have to settle for that. It makes you wonder...and in the words of the great Sex and the City writers, "What if Prince Charming never showed up? Would Snow White have slept in that glass coffin forever? Or would she have eventually woken up, spit out the apple, gotten a job, a health care package, and a baby from her local neighborhood sperm bank?"

Even though we typically make less money, have more daily commitments, and deal with all those aforementioned hormones; we are still making strides daily in the fight for feminine equality. Each woman has a daily struggle that no man truly understands. And with that, I am just referring to American women. Let's not forget that there are still areas of the globe, even today, where it is not only acceptable but completely normal for women to experience oppression, illiteracy, rape, poor health care, not to mention physical and mental abuse. In Afghanistan, domestic violence is common, 87% of women said they had experienced it. In oil rich Saudi Arabia, women live their entire life under the guardianship of a male relative. They are not allowed to interact with men publicly, drive a car, and they must live strictly segregated lives. Breaking any of these rules would expose them to severe punishment. In areas of Pakistan, women are gang-raped as punishment for men's crimes. Killing women as a means of honor in these areas has become wider spread with a renewed wave of religious extremism that targets female politicians, human rights workers, and lawyers.

When I think of those women and what they must experience, I feel so privileged to live where I live with the rights so many brave women fought for. Of the 3.3 billion women that occupy this planet, I am one of the lucky ones and if you're reading this, you probably are too. I was told from day one that I could be whatever I wanted to be. Despite dealing with men in my life who have treated me much less than 'good', I always had the right and the means to get away from them. By the means, I mean the resources. And they are there ladies, resources in Cincinnati for women and their issues are abundant. See our resources page if you or someone you know is in need. And again, I feel privileged to live where I live.

I am hardly a traditional feminist. I wear heels; make up, a push up bra, and Spanx when I feel a little chubby. While married, I loved the role of playing house and having dinner on the table by six. All of these things though, I did and still do by choice. I believe a qualified woman should make as much as their male counterpart. I believe in a woman's right to choose (and with the insane over population of the world, you should too). I believe women can achieve anything, I mean anything they want. I believe that in my lifetime, we will see a woman president. I believe that women will likely rule this world eventually. If we can manage high powered careers, motherhood, relationships and our monthly visitor...I think we can and we will conquer. I have seen a man with a cold (and recent studies show men do complain an abnormal amount when sick), I am convinced if a man got a menstrual period they would be on the couch in a fetal position. Sorry guys, you would.

So ladies, this is my salute to us...to the brave women who paved the way for us to speak our overactive minds, and the fabulous local women featured in this issue.

As my mom still says, you go girl.

Streetvibes is an activist newspaper, advocating justice and building community. *Streetvibes* reports on economic issues, civil rights, the environment, the peace movement, spirituality and the struggle against homelessness and poverty. Distributed by people who are or once were homeless, in exchange for a \$1 donation, *Streetvibes* is published twice a month by the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless.

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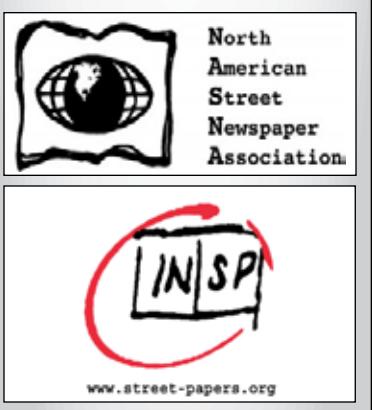
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The Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that works to eradicate homelessness in Cincinnati through coordination of services, public education, grassroots advocacy and *Streetvibes*.



Homeless Congress

February Meeting

RICCARDO TAYLOR

Before giving the spiel and elaboration of the particulars of the second Homeless Congress session it is my pleasure to relate our sincere appreciation and gratitude to Pastor Fred Cook and his wife Leslie Cook for their support and generosity in providing for us the space and allotment of time to conduct our meetings. We would also like to give thanks to all other staff and program directors at the First Lutheran Church of Race St.

The second meeting of the Homeless Congress, which was held on February 10/2011, was what I consider to be a success. Our membership count for the day was at eight down from the ten original members who started with me in January. My reason for viewing this meeting as a success is not because of the decline in the number of attendees, but the simple reality that we as a group did meet again as scheduled with the majority of the first meetings attendees returning. The fact that these individuals, all who I might add are under some stress of the conditions of homelessness/poverty, did find the time and as well provided their energy through participation during the meeting is deserving of recognition and appreciation from

myself and those who may receive some future benefit. For the most part the only real difference between the first and second meeting as far as attendance and participation goes is that our first meeting held in January was attended by a group of individuals, whom I had the pleasure of convincing that our convening for the particular task of creating a voice for those of us living in the circumstance homelessness was both a worthy cause and a great opportunity for us to air the issues which effect us most. Though not all the original members were present at the second meeting some did follow protocol for missing a session and we look for their return for future meetings. Further, I have convinced myself that a project such as the creation and substantiation of such an entity will take some trial and error as well as some weeding out of potential membership.

Armed with all the possibilities of failure and success, I can say with a sense of pride and respect for our member body that we are convinced of our mission and we are pushing forwarded!

At our latest meeting we went over the introduction of our pilot project that we hope to institute at the Drop Inn Center. The particulars and duties to be performed by the selected Congress members were set in place and the volunteers for the project are in agreement for contractual assistance with the Drop Inn Center's

staff. Our next step will be the introduction to the Drop Inn center and hopeful partnership with that agency. The remaining time spent in session was a review of some of the immediate issues with winter sheltering, and other issues that might be available for us as a group to engage in within community/resources agencies where we might be of assistance or available for volunteering. We ended the meeting on a positive note and with high hopes of becoming an asset to our community we set our next meeting date for March 10, 2011.

In giving appreciation for the individuals who have come forth to help make a difference and who are instrumental in making the Congress a reality below are listed the members of Cincinnati's Homeless Congress.

James De Mario Brown
Dennis Saker
Keith Eutsey
Jerry Davis
Constance Walton
Stephen Snow Gentry
Lee McCoy
Deerrick Prophet
Walter Washington
Booger Love

Street Life

Keeping score

RICCARDO TAYLOR

The whirl-wind reality of life in the streets lacks in options, and more conclusively has only two types of players. Addressed by any other name they still come out the same. Winners, and losers; a simple formula, at least to the common ear, yet the reality is so much more varied. Everybody knows that someone has to win at the expense of someone losing, but it is so much more than that! You see, you cannot make a loser out of a winner or visa versa, each has its own position. Keeping score, it's a count that all street people use, large or minute it's important that you know, the tally, it allows you to get an edge, or when needed or too play catch up. The employment of hard work or the leisure of kicking back is all generated from the count. Pleasure when you are up misery when you are down!

Now the loser, true to his/her disposition, at the first setback or difficulty they throw up their hands in defeat. That common motto, "I did my best", always seems to be the answer. They tend to have satisfaction from their least bit of effort, and refuse to see things in any other light. Not having the willingness or the fortitude to press on, they allow things to be where they are and to just let it happen. There is an excuse for everything! It is what it is, or, so they say.

Taking things for granted we would

expect everyone to be satisfied where they are, if you are satisfied with the outcome of your efforts then your OK. However, I beg the difference, actually if we are satisfied with where we are then that makes us somewhat of a loser! One should never be content, with just where they are, there is always room for improvement, and striving for that improvement is the mark of a true winner. Therefore, the keeping of the score is much more than just a count, it's a calculation of where one wants to be, and not just an idea of the moment. Winners are never completely content and so they are in search of more. Losers are staid and a moment of contentment is their desire. The scorekeeper is the true winner and the keeper of the score!

International Women's Day 100th Anniversary

Celebrate the achievements of women around the world!

Join the Sisters of Charity:

Sunday, March 6

2-6 p.m.

Open House

An interactive celebration of women's achievements

followed by a prayer service at 6 p.m.

Sisters of Charity Motherhouse, 5900 Delhi Rd.
Mt. St. Joseph, OH 45051

Send your poetry, art, papers to OPJIC for display in Cedars.
Watch for our YouTube video during March. Join the fun!

Contact: S. Jean Miller

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Sisters of Charity
of Cincinnati
www.srcharitycinti.org/opjc.htm



Women Making Herstory



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At 33, Sun is on a path she feels proud of. As Case Manager with Lighthouse Youth Services she spends her days working with at-risk teens between the ages of 13 and 17. She assists youth with mental health and behavior issues, connecting them with community resources to keep them away from negative influences.

In her work, Sun co-facilitates a substance abuse prevention support group once a week in addition to individually counseling teens to keep them away from drugs and their negative effects.

Sun sees herself as a visionary and as a teacher but is also learning through others and enjoys the fresh insight the youth give on how the world works. "I think that keeps me youthful and helps me keep my ideas flowing and keeps me from being complacent- they energize me. Our youth can provide new solutions to old problems and that is inspiring to me."

Sun recognizes she is making a positive difference when she sees a kid she is working with start to believe in themselves more- and she sees their confidence grow. "When I see a person moving away from where they were from the time we have spent together- breaking people away from the cycle of poverty and impoverished mindset that sometimes comes along with it." Sun says she pushes youth to think outside of themselves and their norms and explore the world with new eyes. Through her mentoring she exposes youth to art museums, the planetarium and cooking classes as well as teaching them how to apply for jobs, and reserve a library book- all of which she says are "sustainable skills and resources to be able to become independent." "Many kids don't have a strong support system and I help them increase their social supports."

When Sun isn't working with at-risk youth she volunteers for the Cincinnati Association for the Blind as an on air radio reader. Additionally, she's an advocate for immigration reform, recently volunteering for the Immigration Reform Movement on the local campaign with the Interfaith Worker's Center to establish workers rights for low wage works and immigrants.

Since 2007 Sun has also owned and operated a small business, Soap Box Tees, a creative, urban and socially conscious lifestyle clothing company. Sun designs clothing that are a reflection of her environment and passions. Her work as an activist, writer, and volunteer fuels her drive for promoting social responsibility.



SOUL SISTERS

Patti Marshall, a Journey from Marilyn Monroe to Mogul

INTERVIEW BY JENNIFER MARTIN



PATTI MARSHALL

When I thought about powerful women in Cincinnati, the first person that came to mind is Patti Marshall. I started working with Patti about 6 years ago when I was hired at the old alternative rock station, 97.3. The first time I saw Patti, I was scared to death. When Patti walks in a room, people shut up. I was just a radio baby and seeing Patti walk the halls, commanding respect from everyone, was a frightening and inspiring thing. When I explain Patti Marshall to anyone I usually sum it up by saying, "...she is basically everything I would like to eventually be." When she asked me to be a part of Q102's weekend programming, it was a surreal moment for me. A lot of radio people would laugh at that because weekends aren't usually a huge deal, but the fact that Patti had confidence in me...that was a great feeling. Patti has managed to become one of the biggest radio players in the town by being a woman who fights for what is right and never backing down from a male counterpart. She has managed to put together a radio station that seems to greatly understand and relate to the women of Cincinnati. The one thing that I believe sets her aside from any other Program Director is the simple fact that she never loses sight of who is listening to the radio she puts on the air. When she talks about her listeners, she refers to them as 'My Girls'. Understanding women and being able to outsmart the men has made Patti Marshall a figure that I think any girl who has ever been judged as a 'dumb blond' should look up to.

An Interview with Patti Marshall

You have so many titles...what are they?

Operation and Marketing manager of WVGY 97.3 fm "The Wolf", WUBE 105.1 "B-105", WKRO 101.9 fm "Q102", WREW 94.9 fm "Rewind", and Program Director for Q102.

How long have you been in radio and what made you start?

I have been in the radio business for 32 years; I started in radio because I love music. In 1979 I was signed up for an Easter seals dance athon... about hour 6 of a 24 hour event I started to drive

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the DJ crazy with questions. I asked him how I could get a job in the business, he told me to go home and record myself reading advertisements out of the newspaper. I did and dropped off the tape and he hired me to run the board for 'Kasey Kasem's Top 40 Countdown'.

What has your experience been, being a woman in mainly male dominated industry?

Hmmmm in the beginning I was too young (15) to recognize it, then it started with what management thought was "acceptable" for a female role. Only midday or nights, a sidekick in the morning (never lead and few are now).... nor were you considered for the program director position. In the early 90's one boss told me I sounded too much like Marilyn Monroe to be real...something I've never forgotten. I took that to mean 'dumb blond' by the way he said it. Later I turned it into a challenge, hung her picture on my wall and celebrated. Marilyn had a lot more going on than everyone thought too. I think it's always in the wind....assumptions are made because you're female that you're too emotional, that you won't work well with other women, the list goes on and on. I guess the best defense is to be damn good at your job and help your company make money results are hard to argue with.

What advice do you have for young women who want to break into the radio/media world?

Work hard, learn all facets of the job, and surround yourself with people who are supportive, stay true to your value system, and look for a company that appreciates your talent...and seek a mentor who helps you develop. When you start...consider all of the above as your true salary, don't measure your worth by the number on your paycheck until you have the experience to demand it...and even then weigh quality over quantity.

As Operations Manager of the four station cluster, how important is giving back to the community, and how do you decide which charities you partner with?

I feel a strong need to use the power we have to help. Our charity events reflect the needs and life experiences of the listener for each station. With Q102's large female audience we focus on breast cancer, heart disease, and children. Everyone woman has a friend or family member who has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Heart disease is the number one killer of women. B105 and 97.3 The Wolf have strong patriotic initiatives....the Marine Corps Toys for Tots, the USO. Rewind 94.9 has a broader approach, helping local charities with its support of the Rusty Ball and so many other organizations. Our listeners guide us. A good station is a mirror of its audience.

Tell me about the thought process behind Q102's programming and talent.

I am truly blessed with the women I work with. Q102 has more full time on air female hosts than any Cincinnati station and most stations in the country. Add to that Kim Carson, Amy Tobin and Jennifer Martin who all contribute to the station's weekend programming. Jenn Jordan (Jeff and Jenn, Mornings), Laura Powell (Afternoons with Brian Douglas), Jennifer Fritsch (Morning Show Producer) and Holly Morgan (Middays) are the most talented women I've ever worked with. Each has a distinctly different personality and their lives reflect our audience. Moms, wives, single, divorced they share it all on the air. We have a lot of women here at the stations...from Angie Mitchell our business manager, sales, traffic, new media to Katie Walters our Q Promotions Coordinator, we never run of a woman's opinion and influence. See Women's Herstory, P. 5

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Julie Evans, Up and Coming Radio Management Giving an Inspiring Take on Being a Gay Woman in a Man's World

AUTHOR: INTERVIEW BY JENNIFER MARTIN



JULIE EVANS

Like Patti said, the building that all four of her radio stations call home is full of talented, thoughtful women. The second person that came to mind as being an inspiring female figure was the woman who gave me my first shot on the air, after just 'liking my voice'. Julie Evans is the Promotions genius of the building. I have never met someone more organized and focused on her career while still being the person everyone loves. Julie is outspoken, true to her heart, and most importantly one of those people you just enjoy being around. She doesn't play the typical 'radio game' of being shady and backstabbing. She is honest with her staff and the people she reports to. Her office over the years was a hangout for everyone in the building, almost "the cool place" to be.

Everyone has had their favorite radio station flip formats or fire people. I have been through these 3 times now with Julie being the one to break the news to everyone. What sets Julie apart as a manager is that these events break her heart too. I remember when 97.3 (it was 'Everything Alternative' 97.3 at the end) was disbanded and flipped to create "94.9 The Sound". Despite keeping her job, Julie may have taken the flip the hardest. A lot of radio managers act as though they are upset when a whole staff is fired but with Julie, you feel it. To meet Julie is to love her. I'm honored to have her as my friend.

What advice do you have for young women who want to break into the radio/media world?

Don't...just kidding. Radio is so cut throat. So if you aren't willing to make little to no money for awhile and beat doors down for a couple years... I would pick something else. Women or not, radio is one of those businesses that really isn't hiring any "new blood". So if someone is really interested in radio, I would say they need to maybe job shadow to see if this is really want they want

Women Making Herstory

I am humbled and privileged by the opportunity to document the lives these extraordinary Cincinnati women.
-Jeni Jenkins, Staff Writer

Amy Lind
Educating and Empowering to Change Lives



AMY LIND
Educating & Empowering To Change Lives

Amy Lind sees herself as a survivor and someone who effects social change even if it's one tiny step at a time. As a survivor of violence, oppression and discrimination, she wants to pass the awareness of how she survived onto others through teaching.

Lind, who holds a Ph.D. from Cornell University and a dual BA in Women's Studies and Latin American Studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz wears many hats including researcher, published author, mentor, and Associate Professor in the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Cincinnati. In her life she has achieved numerous fellowships, grants and honors for her work on economic and sexual justice.

Born in Galesburg, Illinois and raised in Southern California, her mother was a big influence in her life as an advocate for different kinds of rights. One of her earliest forms of inspiration came from her aunt Amy Conger, an Art History Professor who while living in Chile in the early 1970s survived the torture of the Chilean military under Pinochet's rule. While Lind was still in elementary school at the time, her aunt's story sparked a lifelong passion for social justice issues in Latin America.

Since college, Lind has taught and lectured around the globe on topics ranging from gender, sexuality, reproductive rights, violence, globalization and development in America and Latin America. As a teacher her end goal is to help students acquire knowledge that validates their own experiences and identities, "which in this world, unless you are a white, heterosexual male is hard to find validation for." Much of her work is about teaching students how to think differently then how they have been socialized, "if I can help my students find and create that knowledge for themselves that's the most important thing I can do."

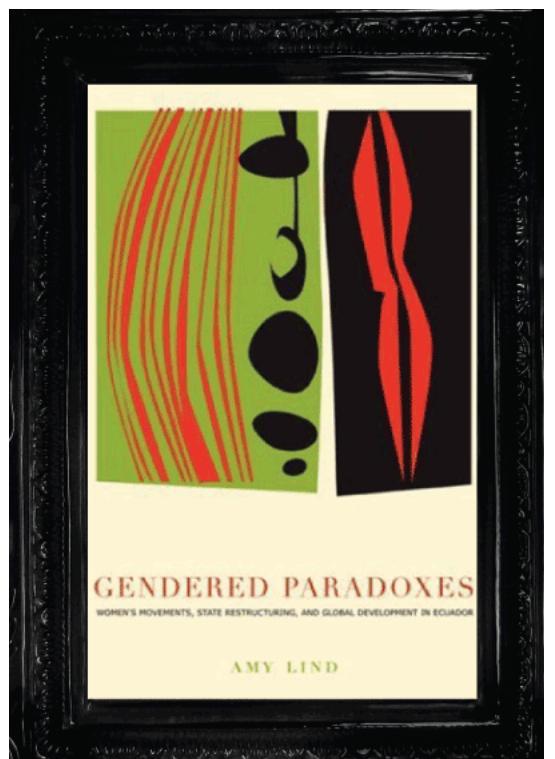
See Women's Herstory, P. 6

Women Making Herstory



Continued from P. 5

Lind's work is about seeking equality and justice and ending oppression which is inspired by all the people protesting and defending workers rights across the country and "all the people who are fighting against corporate greed and neo-liberal restructuring." She recognizes a recent change in the political climate: "it feels like something is shifting in the universe. The greed and the inequalities between the rich and the poor are getting worse, which is motivating more people to get involved."



Cover of Lind's 2005 book
Gendered Paradoxes

Through her scholarship Lind believes she is making a positive difference in people's lives: "If I can help change the lives of one or two of my students, that keeps me going, and transforms me in the process as well."

Lind's most current work is looking at how to combine sexual and reproductive rights with economic justice, "I don't think we can talk about one without the other." She recently edited Development, Sexual Rights and Global Governance in 2010 as well as authored Gendered Paradoxes in 2005. In addition, she recently received the prestigious Taft Center Fellowship which will give her the opportunity to work on her new book entitled Governing Sexuality: Development, Family Norms and the Struggle for Sexual Rights in Ecuador.

When Lind is not lecturing, writing or researching, she often serves as an expert witness for women and gay and lesbian immigrants from Ecuador, Venezuela and Peru who are seeking political asylum in the US and the UK. And while her work takes her across the globe, one of her personal goals is to continue to travel to countries she has yet to see.

As an educator, author and volunteer Lind has dedicated herself to making a difference. Each day she continues her work changing as many people's lives that she can.



Couple Marjorie Bledsoe's passion for community with her zeal for teaching and making art and music and the result is distinction.



MARJORIE MARIE BLEDSOE
Fiery and Fired Up Artist

Marjorie, or "Miss Marjorie" as her friends call her, is a wild fire, sprinkling her artistic flame throughout the community.

Born and raised in Oxford, Ohio, Marjorie's mother encouraged her from a young age to be artistic. Beginning lessons at the age of 8 her studies included voice, piano, advanced music theory, flute, oboe, baritone horn, trombone and guitar. Her enthusiasm for the arts continued in high school when she first started making ceramic art. This interest led her to pursue academic studies at Hocking College in Athens, Ohio where she studied Music Production and Visual Design and eventually opened her first gallery Half Way Sun in Nelsonville, Ohio which focused on indigenous and ethnic art.

Now, as a Studio Technician, Marjorie teaches classes and works collaboratively with her partner Dustin Lee to make "FaceWare" out of Funk Fired Arts Studios in Hyde Park, where she has been employed since 2009. Funk Fired Arts, one of the largest public studios in the country, is a gallery and teaching studio with classes for everyone from beginners to advanced ceramic artists.

According to Marjorie, ceramics are a lost African American cultural tradition and she wants to bring it back into those communities. For Marjorie, her art is not limited to what she makes "my art is my life." By teaching people something new, as part of the process of learning ceramics, you have to pay attention to yourself a lot. It's a reflective process. I give people the opportunity to have a dialogue with themselves and to pay attention to things they wouldn't normally pay attention to. It's about making connections and becoming more self-aware."

In addition to teaching and doing studio work, Marjorie is currently a junior working on her Bachelor's in Fine Arts in the University of Cincinnati's DAAP program. In the near future, Marjorie will be doing more community based art with an emphasis on social justice- making a connection through art with social awareness, self awareness and making things more apparent. Marjorie sees a clear connection between art and social justice.

Marjorie's passion for social justice naturally led to her extensive involvement with UC's RAPP (Racial Awareness Program) which she describes as a "dialogue about race, gender, sexuality, orientation, intersectionality and socialization." According to Marjorie, "the end goal is to provide people with identity awareness whether it is social awareness or other people's identities. It's a forum for people to discover their own identities and how they may impact other people's lives." In 2010, Marjorie received the Terrence L. Jones Diversity Award for her involvement with RAPP.



Marjorie in the studio on her potter's wheel

Marjorie is a visionary. In the future she would like to run a cooperative gallery and currently she is working on starting a local time bank, which is a group of people who exchange services and skills for time dollars. The time dollars earned can be spent within the collective, on any member participating. Marjorie envisions living in a more equitable world where people aren't necessarily valued with dollar signs. She wants people to realize how valuable community is and that they may have talents that aren't valued from a traditional capitalist viewpoint. One of her end goals is to help people put more value on their given talents because we as a society don't always pay attention to them. Marjorie believes that people are good in general, that they aren't inherently bad. "Even people who are misguided or bad in some way, that's not part of them- they learned it. Everyone can change and everything can change. We all have the power to do that."

See Women's Herstory, P. 7

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Women Making Herstory



Continued from P. 6

Cleveland native and 20 year resident of Cincinnati, Bet Stewart has worked to craft her living as a performing artist and teaching artist for over 30 years.



BET STEWART
Performing & Teaching Artist

Self employed as the Artistic Director with Intuition Theatre- a local touring theatre group founded in 1981; she found her niche with the group in 1983.

Bet's work with the theatre group includes writing, producing and directing a variety of plays for both youth and adults throughout the region. Her plays are a mix of art forms including "drama, comedy, music, miming and stilt walking." One of her more recent plays

produced through the Kentucky Humanities Council as a Kentucky Chautauqua Performer, is based on the life and legend of Rosemary Clooney, internationally known American actress and singer who struggled with addiction. This one woman show highlights the many obstacles Clooney faced and how she overcame them through song.

Another of Bet's plays "Stand in My Shoes" is a justice play focusing on conflict resolution and how people need to stand in other peoples shoes - starting with kids on the playground on up to international foreign politics. She performs "Stand in My Shoes" at area schools teaching children the importance of seeing other perspectives by wearing someone else's shoes.

Bet believes that theater is created to make change and that it helps open people's minds. In her work Bet strives to "help people see something in a new light, in a new way." She carries this philosophy on in her work at Rivercity Correctional Center, a rehabilitative prison where she teaches and directs with Inside/Outside, a program designed to build inter-personal and life-management skills through the visual, literary and performing arts. Bet teaches movement, storytelling, improv, music, and songwriting in a series of creative workshops with women prisoners dealing with substance abuse issues. Her goal is to "teach them and help them express themselves. We give them a voice so that they have skills and ways to express themselves, so that when they get out they can have a rich life." Inside/Outside is a "therapeutic community of people qualified to change thinking and behavior." The teaching artists provide accessible lesson plans that are challenging yet help people with self esteem so they "believe they can do something and be someone."

In her work, Bet finds inspiration from a variety of artists including comedienne Lily Tomlin, singer-song-writer Peggy Seeger, jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald, the political theatre troupe San Francisco Mime Troupe and Augusto Boal, the founder of Theatre of the Oppressed, a theatrical form originally used in radical popular education movements.

Bet's influences and interests guided her down a rich path of experiences including 13 years as a stilt walker with roles ranging from a giant Statue of Liberty singing "Do Wop" and an 8 foot tall one woman band; working with homeless women at Welcome House Shelter in Kentucky to create poetry, movement, dance and storytelling; directing Karen Brody's play "Birth" a critically acclaimed play about childbirth, women's vulnerability when they are giving birth and the need for change in the healthcare profession; singing and performing with Cincinnati's Muse Choir; as well as conducting research and writing scripts for 19 original plays about social and historical issues.



Bet Stewart with Andy Hopkins & Amos Hopkins (her sons), playing on the Alaska Queen, a steamboat near Ketchikan Alaska

Bet holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from the University of Cincinnati and has studied theatre with people all over the world. Bet's motivated each day because she is doing what she loves and she's "very lucky to be doing what I love."

Her contribution to the world is "giving a lot of people a voice that would not normally have a voice." In addition to writing, directing and performing plays, Bet recently began writing and performing her own songs which she plans to continue to focus on as her career progresses. Her lifelong dream is to one day perform in Europe and Australia.

20TH CENTURY DATES OF IMPORTANCE TO AMERICAN WOMEN

1900 Golfer Margaret Abbott is the first American woman to win a medal in the Olympics. At the Paris games, she takes the gold medal.

1978 Women's History Week first is celebrated in Sonoma County, California. Congress passes a resolution on National Women's History Week in 1981.)

1981 Sandra Day O'Connor is the first woman on the U.S. Supreme Court, serving until 2006. Jeane Kirkpatrick becomes the first female U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

1983 Astronaut Sally Ride is the first American woman in space, flying on the shuttle Challenger. She flies a second shuttle mission in 1984.

1984 Geraldine Ferraro becomes the first woman nominated for vice president by a major party (Democrat) when she is selected as Walter Mondale's running mate.

1985 Wilma Mankiller is elected first female principal chief of an American Indian nation, the Cherokee Nation.

1987 Congress expands Women's History Week to a Month long event celebrated in March.

1989 Illeana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida is the first Hispanic-American woman elected to Congress.

1992 Astronaut Mae Jemison, a physician, is the first African-American woman in space, flying aboard the space shuttle Endeavour as a mission specialist.

1993 Toni Morrison becomes the first African-American woman to win the Nobel Prize for literature. Janet Reno is the first woman attorney general of the United States.

1995 Lieutenant Colonel Eileen Collins is the first woman to pilot a space shuttle. In 1999, she becomes the first woman to command a space shuttle.

1997 Madeleine Albright is sworn in as the first woman U.S. secretary of state. Born in Prague, Czechoslovakia, she became a U.S. citizen in 1957.

2001 Elaine Chao becomes secretary of labor, the first Asian-American woman to be appointed to a president's Cabinet in American history.

2005 Condoleezza Rice is the first African-American woman to serve as U.S. secretary of state.

2006 Captain Nicole Malachowski debuts as the first female demonstration pilot in the U.S. Air Force's air demonstration squadron team, the Thunderbirds.

2007 Nancy Pelosi is sworn in as the first female speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, one of the most powerful posts in the U.S. government.

2007-2008 Hillary Rodham Clinton is the first woman to become a leading candidate for a presidential nomination, mounting a fierce challenge against Barack Obama, the ultimate winner of the Democratic Party's nomination & election. In 2009, Clinton is sworn in as secretary of state, becoming the first former first lady to serve in a president's Cabinet.

2009 Michelle Obama becomes the first African-American first lady of the United States.

2009 In the 111th Congress, a record 17 women serve in the Senate & 73 women serve in the House of Representatives. This total of 90 seats equals 17 percent of the 535 seats in Congress. In addition, three women serve as delegates to the House of Representatives from Guam, the Virgin Islands & Washington.

Move Ahead or Get Left Behind.

A look at what life could be like without a car

The notion of an American society abandoning their cars often is often dismissed with a polite laugh. People love their cars, is what I'm told; they enjoy driving them. If that is true or not doesn't matter. What does matter is that people currently need their cars whether they like driving them or not. The following rant is a sort of grandiose and fantastic vision of what many urban areas could look and feel like if more people gave up their cars for public transit.

B. CLIFTON BURKE

For most people, having a car is a survival tool. It makes having a job, getting food, and seeking out entertainment much easier. The United States is still quite wide with lots of space and privacy, which adds even more reason to own a car. Child care becomes infinitesimally more difficult without a car. Non-emergency health visits require personal ownership of cars, shopping is harder to accomplish without one, holiday travel becomes more of a pain. I get it! There will always be reasons to own cars, but the more society works to eliminate those reasons, the more empowered many urban-dwelling individuals and families could become.

It seems to me that, as time goes by and resources dry up, people will migrate back to the cities and rely on another for survival. Some of this trend of repopulating rundown urban areas can already be seen in Cincinnati. A resurgence of money and development has taken place in local wastelands like the West End. A wave of displacement is occurring where yuppies are moving into the new stylish apartment complexes, while lower-income people scramble mainly West to nearby affordable neighborhoods. On one hand, the shift is good for resuscitating one of Cincinnati's oldest and most historical neighborhoods, preserving the centuries-old architecture there that has been left to die a neglectful and sorry death, and for bringing both money and a safer nightlife closer to the city's core in the process. On the other hand, though, there seems to be no tactful plan in place to assist those citizens who will, in a short time if not already, be economically forced from their homes, and that seems like a lack of civic responsibility from our elected leadership.

Digressions aside, the fact is, cities are planning for more people to remain closer to the financial hubs of the areas where they reside, and a place to keep themselves and their car will come at a premium in such a scenario. That space will be needed for more logistical living arrangements that satisfy the basic requirements of city-people, like more sidewalks, more utility lines and more plumbing, not to mention the accessibility to repair and upkeep these services. The city must still flow, even with a swell of inhabitants; therefore too many cars would slow down progress, which is both wasteful and avoidable. A serviceable and effective public-transit system and an encouragement toward a pedestrian lifestyle are necessary for a city's future growth and sustainability.

Saving Money and Burden

The first thing someone—let's just go second-person and say you—benefit from by not driving is avoiding car insurance. That monthly payment can now go toward a public-transit pass which is hopefully cheaper and therefore saves you money. Not requiring car insurance also relieves you of one less thing you can be arrested for, which can't be bad and will be visited again later in this piece. If you're not in a car, and your cell phone vibrates in your pocket, you can safely stop what you're doing to answer it, where as before, you would do the same while driving and hit a guard rail. That incident raised your insurance, but nothing you can do walking or taking the bus, could ever raise any kind of premium (unless you're impossibly clumsy or dangerously rude).

The next cost you would cut would be gas. As if the insurance and often times the car payment aren't enough, there's always the gas. We all know gas is an environmental issue. It comes from oil which we're told we should use less of, and now it's coming from corn which not everyone is convinced is a satisfactory replacement for oil but isn't going away any time soon. Setting the environment aside (which is a big reason why it's become such a problem to begin with, I guess), not filling your tank twice a month or more now gives you money in your pocket for perhaps a fancier six-pack or a decent pair of snow boots—you will need both over the winter, trust me. Less gas, in theory, would mean less dependence on foreign oil which right-wing blowhards can't stand, and, reduce greenhouse emissions which left-wing blowhards can't stand. Of course, this idea of less gas would rankle the big-oil and ethanol dragons of the world and would be met with fearsome resistance. Cutting into their profit margins are dangerous and murky waters to wander around in, I'm sure. Nonetheless, the idea reads well on paper, and seems like a generally pleasing one to consider.

The next benefit to your life is a double bonus. Not only does not driving eliminate your chances of having to pay for speeding tickets, parking tickets, tickets for old tags or burnt-out tail lights, it practically removes the police from your life altogether—assuming your daily life consists of legal activity, that is.

In your car, a police officer's judgment over you is all powerful. Since cars are large and potentially lethal objects, our legal system has given law-enforcement wide latitude of insisting on safe-driving measures, which I wholeheartedly applaud. Drive safely and you won't be pulled over, is the thinking there. Yet, it is uncommon for any person to drive a car throughout their lives and remain unscathed by the police. Drive long enough, and you will be in violation of something or other at some point and you will likely receive a ticket or worse for your mishap. Not driving allows you to never be fined, or even jailed for the way you traverse along the planet—assuming you respect cross-walks, and stay

out of sovereign waters. Rather than simply wait to be caught slipping up and pay your fine for participating in a driving society, you get to move about largely obstructed from the ever-watchful eye of law-enforcement. While that isn't a license to engage in sneaky illegal practices, it should help you understand the void of worry and stress that drivers have to live with every time they get behind the wheel.

Work Equals Public Transit

By this point, you should start to wonder how you're going to get around without a car. Saving money is great and all, but that stops mattering if you can't get to work to make more of it. The only way is public transit. Some of us have been lucky enough to walk to work or school every day, but that is typically a pleasant coincidence rather than a strategic result. Limiting your job prospects to the small circumference we might consider "walking distance" is not only a bad idea, it's downright irresponsible. As jobs are wrung out more and more from the giant employment dishtowel, and the percentage of jobless American people continues to grow, the most successful of us will be the ones who are willing to go anywhere for work. Most times, in order to apply your trained skills and maximize your full potential, you must have the ability to travel. Yet, if you're without a car, the impossibilities of realistic employment crash upon you right away.

In 2002, Cincinnati shot down a light-rail proposal that would have sprawled across the metro area in a sort of jagged asterisk-like design. It's a tough populace around here to convince of anything that could be described as "progressive". So instead, Cincinnati lumbers along with a shoddy bus system that is organizationally flawed from top to bottom. Trying to get across town to the job that normally takes 20 minutes in your car, would take nearly an hour each way on the bus.

For a moment though, let's pretend that Cincinnati does build the light-rail. Now it takes 20 minutes on the train and another 12 or so on the transfer bus. The whole process takes no longer than 40 minutes each way. If you live near the center of the asterisk, you're able to get anywhere in the greater Cincinnati area in roughly this amount of time. Your job prospects now effectively match those of when you still had your car.

Still dubious? Let's take the idea even further and talk about bullet trains to



nearby cities. The Japanese system Shinkansen, is 1,528 miles long and reaches speeds over 180 mph. Imagine the entire Midwest connected by something similar: Cincinnati, Louisville, Lexington, Indianapolis, Columbus, and Dayton. If you live in Cincinnati, you could work at any of these cities and your entire commute might take only one hour. You would take the local light-rail to the bullet-train downtown, and then take the other city's light-rail to your job wherever that may be.

That sounds like a daunting amount of commuting, no? More than two hours every day on public transit? Then work on top of that? No way, you say.

Well, depending on your job, there's a chance you can work on the train itself—in this vision, they are wireless-ready. If not, you can read, sleep, write your own manifesto, and get to know someone else on the train, or just gaze out of the window at the passing landscape. What you aren't stuck in traffic, road-raging and cramming down a hurried breakfast, all while trying to arrange a conference-call to get a jump on the day's workload. If your job in Louisville is losing its luster and there's a tempting position open in Columbus, with bullet-trains and light-rail you don't have to move your home to go after it.

Satellite Grocery Stores

The whole idea of work is to secure food and shelter, everything else we have is bonus. That's why the car, when it comes all the way down to it, is a hunting tool used to procure food. Not only do we use it to get the funds used for food,

See **Move Ahead**, P. 10

Feed me Seymour...

Feed me all night long. By the Taco Tuesday Brigade.

ZUCCHINI ROLLATINI W/ BUTTERNUT CREAM SAUCE

The Taco Tuesday Brigade is a group of fabulous ladies who get together once a week and make a meal together and eat it. Taco Tuesdays is not just about eating, but it's about coming together and celebrating life. This dish represents the first of many Taco Tuesday gatherings and was made by combining several found recipes with the innovation of creative minds. We hope you enjoy. Serving size, 6-8 bellies

Ingredients:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Zucchini Rollatini: | Creme sauce: |
| 2 medium zucchini cut into
1 1/8-1 1/4" slices, patted dry | 1 large butternut squash,
cut in half lengthwise,
seeds removed |
| 1/2 cup flour | 2 tablespoons olive oil |
| 2 eggs, beaten | 2 shallots, chopped |
| 1 1/2 cup breadcrumbs | pepper to taste |
| 1/2 cup grated parmesan | 1 cup heavy cream |
| 1 tsp. kosher salt | 1/2 cup grated parmesan |
| 1/2 tsp. pepper | 1/2 tbsp. pumpkin spice |
| 2 cups mozzarella cheese | 8 oz apple juice |
| 1 cup ricotta | fresh chopped basil |
| a pinch of oregano and rosemary | 1/4 cup shredded Parmesan cheese |
| 1/4 cup shredded Parmesan cheese | chopped parsley |
| 1 package penne pasta | 1 package penne pasta |

To Prepare:

- Pre-heat oven to 400 degrees
- Bake squash face down on baking sheet 35-45 min. Let cool 10 min.
- While squash is cooling, heat shallots in olive oil for 7 minutes or until translucent.
- Puree cooled & peeled squash in blender with cream.
- Combine squash and cream mixture to shallots along with apple juice, pumpkin spice and parmesan cheese. Bring to a boil and then simmer on low for 10 minutes.
- Lower oven temp. to 350 degrees
- Combine breadcrumbs, grated parmesan cheese, kosher salt and pepper
- Using 3 bowls, 1 flour, 1 with beaten eggs and 1 with breadcrumb mixture.
- Coat zucchini slices one at a time in each bowl
- Place on greased cookie sheets
- Bake for 15 minutes on each side. Cool for 10 min.
- Mix Mozzarella, ricotta, remaining parmesan, herbs and salt and pepper
- Spread 1 cup of crème sauce on the bottom of a greased 8x8 baking dish
- Once zucchini is cooled, form a ball out of the cheese mixture
- Place at the end of a zucchini strip
- Roll zucchini, enclosing the cheese mixture and place into baking dish.
- Repeat for the rest of the zucchini strips and cheese.
- Spread another cup of sauce over the top of the zucchini rolls and top with shredded Parmesan cheese.
- Thin remaining crème sauce with 1 cup veggie broth and 1 cup white wine, and bring to a simmer.
- Serve over fresh hot Penne Pasta.
- Voila, FEED!



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Move Ahead or Get Left Behind.

Continued from P. 8

we also actually "hunt" with it by bringing food back to our caves. Without a car, obtaining food becomes a little trickier. With a car culture...one where every adult is expected to drive a car, the giant box-stores with hundreds of parking spaces and thousands of products inside make sense. If people need to drive to get things, why make them drive all over when they can get all of their stuff in one place? Fine, but that's about the only thing that makes sense about them.

First off, if more people are moving back to the city, it means they're moving away from the big stores. The problem with big stores in denser urban areas is that they take up too much space, so companies can't just tear down whatever is in the way to build new ones. Yet, if less people are driving to and from work, than grocery shopping would need to happen in some other way than hitting up the supermarket on the way home.

We all know how our library system works. In Cincinnati, there are 42 branches that all belong to the same entity, but most of the collection resides at the Main Branch downtown. If you live miles away from the book you want, the library will put someone in a truck and deliver your book to you. This can work with groceries too.

With an improved public-transit system comes more stops. These stops can become small-business hubs as foot-traffic would exponentially increase in the area. If a major grocery chain, like Cincinnati's own local giant Kroger, were to set up small satellite stores designed to facilitate previously ordered grocery bundles, then a person could order their groceries online before noon and have their stuff waiting for them as the exit their train at the end of the day. These orders would be smaller, enough food for only a day or two for the whole family, but could be repeated multiple times a week. Not only would it make grocery shopping doable for the permanent or even occasional pedestrian, it has hidden added benefits like purchasing, cooking and eating fresher foods, which assists with a healthy diet, promotes learning to cook for one's self, and, in theory, supports local produce growers.

If the grocery sector found success with this kind of model, then other everyday-need businesses like pharmacies, liquor and hardware stores might try and prop themselves upon this idea and move closer to transit stops too. Eventually, with enough people passing by, preexisting small-businesses in the area would benefit as well, and suddenly there are enough birthdays between the major holidays to keep little gift shops above water and even allow small bakeries and florists to stay alive. From what I've seen, the longest-standing small-businesses succeed thanks to foot traffic and the best way to increase that traffic is to get people out of their cars.

Quality-of-Life Benefits

Walking is good for you. If you live eight blocks from the closest stop, then that means you're walking 16 blocks a day and that's healthier than walking from house to car to work to car to house every day. Not to mention that the average American misses out on an abundance of sunshine because of this kind of reclusive existence.

Some people may think they are safer in their cars than on public transit or walking the streets, but that philosophy is predicated on fear. To assume that something bad will happen to you outside of your car, is assuming you are a victim who is only waiting to meet your assailant. If there were more people walking the streets, with all those eye-witnesses everywhere, wouldn't the public be safer? The truth is, not everyone walking the streets wants to kill you. In fact, most don't.

People in cars, though, sure are in a hurry to do some kind of personal damage on one another. Once in their cars, many people are in a dreadful hurry to the point where they perform dangerous, potentially lethal maneuvers to get where ever they're going faster. For some reason, the average person has constructed this facade of impervious safety while in their cars and regularly insists on testing the boundaries of their invincible egg by paying attention to so many things other than driving. If the generations of Americans continue to hurdle toward ADHD ruination, how good of an idea is it to insist they operate heavy machinery? None at all, which is why they're making cars that drive themselves. Remove the idiot without removing the idiot's wallet, in a sense.

The fact that humanity is able to pilot themselves around in cars with somewhat minimal carnage and misery often astonishes me. Human beings are more famous for their mistakes than of their triumphs, yet highways and parkways hum along fairly unimpeded. So that proves that people can make a sport of it and still survive to some degree, but it also means that they willfully undergo heaping spoonfuls of stress and anger too. Road rage is a strange animal. I have seen the most sane, mild-mannered individual become a frothing storm of threats and profanity toward his fellow drivers when hoisted behind the wheel. Many times, drivers are all too eager to intimidate while in the "safety" of their cars. Everybody is a tough guy on the road, but those same people would not say a peep if someone cut them off while walking. Perhaps that's because no one gets too hurt if two people bump into one another while walking, but that's exactly my point.

On a bus, or a train, everyone travels together at the same speed heading in the same direction. There is no competition and few ways to accidentally kill yourself or others while riding public transit. Rather than individuals floating along in their reclusive bubbles of steel and speed, masses of people, strangers, are forced to pack close together and, in some way, interact with one another. That sounds more like a society to me; one where a person is forced to admit that other people live in his or her country too.

The other nice thing about not driving is, of course, not driving. The physical act, I mean. Not only do you not need to pay close attention to anything for too long, you can do fun stuff like read a book, or text everyone you know or explain

to your kid how the moon lights up at night. Or, look out the window to enjoy the scenery rather than look through it to avoid crashing. Every now and again on public transit, someone gets really annoying and distracts you from the fun stuff, but being occasionally annoyed without any truly harmful affect is probably a valuable lesson in cultivating patience in this world. Maybe not, but the point is, nobody gets hurt, or seldom do.

The Cost

This little utopia is far from a reality, and in fact, the US is still a very conservative place. The first thing everybody wants to know is how a new form of public transportation gets paid for, and when I tell them taxes, most quit listening. The idea that a taxpayer funds the greater good is one only found in storybooks and Europe. The word socialism smells bad in this country and any collective government-funded projects are met with fierce resistance and furious criticism typically from the right-wing. Most Americans are short-sighted in that they only care what their next paycheck reads. Take away from that number without giving them something they can own and not share, and they panic.

If you're a person with a job, congratulations, you're doing better than nine percent of the population. If you're among that nine percent, a big ambitious infrastructure-improvement program like a radically renewed rail system could spell out work for you. Though mismanaged funding can often lead to abandonment before any ground-breaking ceremony. It's true that the government can be the biggest bum of them all and that politicians do little else than comfort themselves and their "positions" and "interests", and that a big project like this becomes the property of big government—a phrase that is these days typically murmured with a strong dose of venom behind it. And I share, to some degree; these concerns with those Americans who feel that too many good ideas are needlessly wasted away in the administrative phases of a project, but that can't end the ambition. We, as citizens and tax-payers, should demand more transparency and have the intentionally complicated legal jargon clearly explained so that third-graders can understand the concepts behind government reasoning. We should insist that the public be updated in a forthright manner on all the happenings in Washington and all the way down to the smallest of city halls.

It's up to us, however, to care. Not only care for ourselves and family, but for our neighbors and their families. Helping everyone, in turn helps us. I feel we've lost sight of that.

Conclusion

If it's true that more young people in the future will rather stay close to the city and resist the temptation of urban flight, then those cities who prepare for such a lifestyle choice will be the survivors. I know that Cincinnati isn't often called progressive and that there exists a large populace who bristle at the idea of change, but this fair town will become even harder to prosper if it doesn't get onboard to some kind of public-transit system in the next decade or so.

A century or so ago, Cincinnati built subway tunnels only to run out of money after eight miles of track and those tunnels have been vacant ever since. The city was a burgeoning metropolis then ready to explode with commerce and population, but after the subway debacle, Chicago became the crown jewel of the Midwest instead. I feel the Queen City has never fully recovered from that blunder and that the seed of the failure still resonates in the minds of its citizens. Seeing the tunnels left to rot has made these people gun-shy of similar risks that could propel Cincinnati toward the top or sink them farther behind. The right-wing thinkers and doers of the area have ridden this wave of momentum to effectively shoot down nearly any and all public-transit initiatives that would benefit the city.

Finding employment isn't likely to get much easier in the years to come and more and more companies will continue to cut back on payroll. To make our city, even our nation, a more viable place to prosper and find happiness, a large, collective effort of public-transportation must get underway soon. In a future with less natural resource and less commodities, we will need to rely more on one another and that means more sharing. Soon, joblessness and poverty won't be just your problem or my problem, it will be our problem, and the later we recognize this social phenomena, the harder it will be to catch up to the cities with systems already in place.

Just this time, let's be a proactive city rather than a reactionary one. As a group, let's acknowledge that some changes will be required for a better future and that some of these changes will be expensive and sweeping. By shifting the way we move around our planet, we have the chance of being the frontrunners of a new way of life, an alternative with endless benefit. A new system that works would bring more people to the area, including more business, and, in turn, lower the public cost to taxpayers. Not only would it help the local wealthy business moguls by bringing in more money to the area, it would also greatly help the disenfranchised people of our city by providing them a larger sphere of job possibilities. Lower-income families could live with just one car per household and give them the means to take more day-trips and other family vacations. Teens and the elderly could navigate themselves around more safely and lower medical costs associated with auto-accidents and other health ailments that come with driving.

If this is to ever happen, you and I, the skin and bones that make our city a city, need to start warming up to the idea. We cannot sit on our hands and watch the world get out of their cars and pass us by. A new dawn is on the horizon. This can either be an era of innovation and alternative thinking, or one of stubborn resistance and financial bleakness. So I beg of you: get out of your cars and get on board, because the world is moving that way even if you aren't. It can be scary plunging headfirst into the unknown future, but it seems far more miserable sitting around and waiting for the lights to shut off. So far as I know, you get one life on one planet, might as well seize it with both hands. Move ahead or get left behind.

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Rape in Zimbabwe: Perspectives and realities



Gender links_ popular perspectives on rape
Source: Colleen Lowe Morna, Gender Links

"A woman is meant to fulfill all of her husband's desires, even when she doesn't feel like it," said Primrose Mukumba, a vendor at a Harare flea market. She believes there is no such thing as rape within marriage.

FUNGAI MACHIRORI

The belief is widespread in Zimbabwe, according to the Musasa Project, an NGO providing support to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), and is a serious deterrent to women accessing their services.

"Unfortunately, most married women do not perceive it as rape," said Musasa Project Executive Director Netty Musanhu. "They will just talk about the consequences of the incident, for example contracting HIV. It's only when you explore further how they got the virus that they then say that their husbands forced themselves onto them. That's when you realize that they have been raped."

Statistics from ARC showed that 70 percent of survivors who visited the clinic were females in the 17-25 age bracket, one of the most vulnerable age groups to HIV infection. Overall, one in ten clients seen by ARC tests positive for HIV.

The majority (two-thirds) of ARC's rape cases are committed by a partner or relative; known as acquaintance rape. The challenge with reporting this type of rape is that women face physical and social stigma and face being disowned or abused by their family if they do speak up.

"It would be much easier to mobilize help for rape victims if the majority of Zimbabweans believed that the victim is not to blame," observed marketing consultant Tafadzwa Dihwa. "Our conservative attitude to taboo subjects is very wrong."

Centres such as the Adult Rape Clinic (ARC) in Harare provide rape survivors with services that include medical examinations, HIV counseling and testing, emergency contraceptives (ECP), post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and treatment for sexually transmitted infections

Traditionally, chiramu refers to

the goodwill expressed between a man and the relatives of his wife. The man may take to playfully calling his wife's younger sister his second wife. But this goodwill can be abused and a man may sexually harass the woman in the belief that he is entitled to her body since she is the "other" wife.

The blame debate extends into the role that provocative attire plays in precipitating rape.

"She's showing the men a sign about what she's come for," said Nobert Zhuwao, a cell phone credit vendor, when asked about what he

thought of women who visit bars in miniskirts. "Men are visual and are easily excited. And in a bar where there is alcohol and drugs, a woman must know that!"

Zhuwao's friend, Harmony Savanhu, added that in a state of sexual stimulation a man could not be held responsible for his actions. "If we've decided to have sex and the girl changes her mind at the last minute, then she's wrong," said Savanhu. When it's up (the penis), it's ready!

Originally published by Gender Links opinion and commentary service © Street News Service

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Most Unlikely to Succeed

Chapter One

DONALD WHITEHEAD

Looking back, I suppose I should have been nervous. In fact, I guess I should have been very nervous.

I should have figured that what was about to happen shouldn't have been happening at all. I should have assumed I was dreaming, hallucinating, or having an extreme bout of wishful thinking. I should have reasoned that the Donald Whitehead I had always been, the Donald Whitehead that I knew so well, would have had no business at such a place at such a time. That Donald Whitehead would have been an interloper or kitchen help; that Donald Whitehead would have been approached by security or the police and given only seconds to explain why he was there and what he had in mind. But the truth is, I was there; I was there legitimately, and people were treating me as if I had every right to be there. Donald Whitehead was, as I came to learn, "on the list."

And, of course, I really was nervous. Not in the sense of panic or having my knees knock, but of that inner apprehension as to what might happen that day; that sooner rather than later, someone in authority would come up to me with an expression of superiority on his or her face and I would immediately be out the door, booted as the fraud I really was.

Even though I knew that that was not to be the case, old habits and old self-doubts really do die hard. The photographer was a surprise, though. I had hardly expected that anyone would want any sort of a visual record or even that I might have the chance to request such a record. But there the photographer was, explaining to me how many shots he would be taking, assessing what problems I might present, and then disappearing, not to have any interaction with me until I saw the event's photographs some weeks later and wanted to order pictures. Following the photographer, a young staffer approached to check that the information they had for me was correct, including the pronunciation of my name, which I would have thought to be obvious. Satisfied, he headed for the next guest, and his place was taken by another staffer (apparently half the people in Washington D.C. are on someone's staff), who put his hand on my shoulder and begin gently guiding me into an appropriate position, as well as giving me the protocol for what was about to happen – "please, don't reach for anything, and keep your hands out of your pocket," and telling me how long I could expect to wait.

And I did wait. Waiting is a way of life in Washington, much like in the military, and you learn rather quickly that Washington is a city where important things really do happen, and the necessity of dealing with important matters trumps everything and – almost – everybody. And, because of that, you learn to wait; you learn to master the art of small talk, the art of simply having something to say to pass the time. I talked to the people next to me; they were from the Department of Labor, and so we talked about jobs and poverty, about what programs might work and how, and why and what could realistically be done regarding legislative needs. I talked to someone behind me; she was new in DC, but had come from Kentucky, right across the river from my home in Cincinnati, where I had lived almost all my life. She asked about a constant topic in Washington for any new person: housing. Not housing for the poor, but rather potential apartments, places to live, locations, traffic patterns, and above all the horrible, horrible rent rates that make life in the nation's capital often seem beyond financial hope.

After about twenty minutes, a more senior staffer (you learn to recognize not only who's who, but at what level people work) came out and said we would be looking at approximately thirty to forty minutes still more, and that we should make ourselves comfortable and we were not to leave. The lady from Kentucky made a joke as to who would ever consider leaving, and I laughed, but not too much for I would have been determined to wait out the whole night if I had had to.

Strangely enough, the call came sooner rather than later. Yet another staffer walked out, holding a clipboard, much like a quarterback on a sideline. He motioned us forward, with the two Labor people leading the way, and me following the lady from Kentucky. The room would probably have been best

described as a small greeting room, attached to a larger office, and that office attached to the remaining areas of the home itself. As we entered, I saw the four men in dark suits move quickly but smoothly, in what was obviously a practiced pattern, heading for, and then opening a second door across from where we had entered. The staffer with the clipboard put his hand on the elbow of the first of the Department of Labor people and gently maneuvered him more to the center of the room. We followed and stood waiting. There were no chairs, although various pieces of furniture did line the left wall of the room, under a huge mirror.

I remember licking my lips as we waited, and I remember rubbing my hands together. But it was only a minute before the men in the dark suits fanned out to flank the opposite door just as yet another staffer, obviously an even more senior person, entered through that door. He quickly stepped to the side, as yet another man walked in. This man stood still for only an instant before he began what must have been for him a long-perfected litany:

"Lady and gentlemen, please give your attention....

The last man to enter was pretty much exactly as I had seen on the television and in the hundreds of pictures, although a bit taller and a bit heavier than I had guessed. He thanked us briefly for coming, and then began what struck me as fairly impassioned series of quick comments on the shame that America had to feel given that so many of its citizens were poor, homeless, unemployed, or all three. He promised that he would personally see to it that something was done about this disgrace.

When he finished speaking, the two Department of Labor people were introduced to him and he spoke with them for at least a couple of minutes; the lady from Kentucky (I later learned she was with HUD) received slightly less time, and then it was my turn. I stepped forward, smiled, and suddenly had only one thought in my mind: again, that this could not possibly be true, that this could not possibly be happening. Not to Donald Whitehead, not to the man who had lain on the floor of an emergency shelter in Cincinnati, Ohio, not to the man who had been so desperate and homeless.

But it was happening.

I stepped forward, smiled, and put out my hand. "Mr. President," the staffer said, "let me introduce to you, Mr. Donald Whitehead, the Executive Director of the National Coalition for the Homeless."

And I stepped forward and shook the hand of President William Jefferson Clinton, and we began to speak, as if we were old friends, about homelessness in the United States of America.

Later in the evening, I had a chance to speak with Hilary Clinton as well, and I was tremendously impressed at how knowledgeable she was about homelessness. We talked and I was astonished as she really seemed to listen to what I was saying. Listening to Donald Whitehead, listening far more attentively than others had listened to me when I had been a homeless addict in the gutters of Cincinnati.

When I left the Clinton Home that evening, I felt as if I had become somehow a different person; I felt as if the Donald Whitehead who had left the office of the National Coalition on Homelessness to go to the Clinton Home had been transformed; had become someone who was different in some new and invigorating way. I felt somehow raised up, somehow changed. And yet, I knew in the deepest recesses of both my heart and my mind, that that was not the truth. For I realized then, as I do now, that I was the very same Donald Whitehead as I had ever been. I realized, in fact, that I was the same Donald Whitehead, who had lain on the floor of the Drop-In Center on 12th Street, in Cincinnati, completely drunk, unable to get up, and unable to take care of himself. And it had not been that many years earlier

That had been in 1995, six years before I went to the home of Bill and Hilary Clinton as Executive Director of the National Coalition for the Homeless. Six years before I was invited to the home of a former President and his wife, the sitting United States Senator from New York, I had needed to sleep on the floor of an emergency shelter and had awakened with the knowledge that I remembered little if anything of the night before and that my life was a complete and devastating shambles.

Looking back, as I walked away from my evening with Bill and Hilary Clinton, the one point that came to me again and again was thinking about those terrible nights in the Drop-In Center, and above all

A Peaceful Place

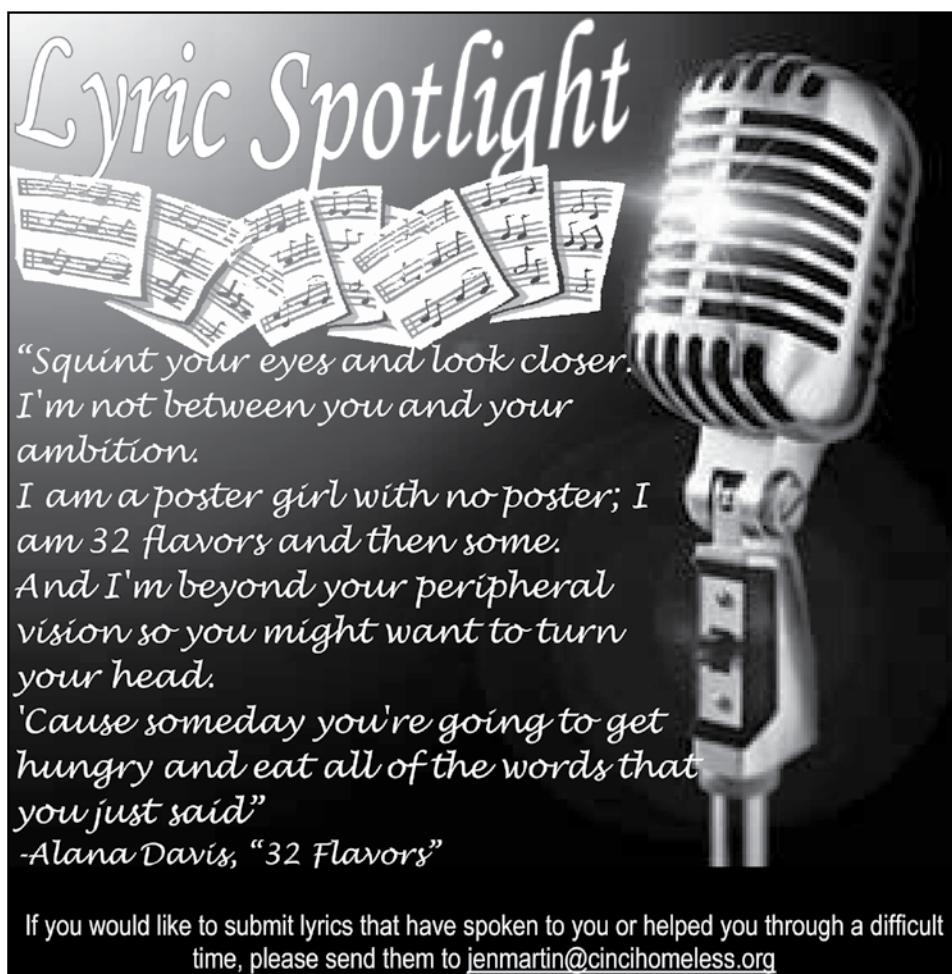
WILLA D. JONES

There's a place I go to on different days of every week
Where I can learn about making things that all kinds of people seek
I learn to make jewelry; I learn how to knit and to even play with clay
I learn all sorts of things and if I want, I can stay and learn all day
This place is open to women from all walks of everyday life
In this place you can find peace of mind from the world's toils and strife
We come together and talk to find solutions for so many different problems
As we knit and make jewelry we pray for God's help with our problems to be able to solve them
This place is called the Sarah Center here in downtown Vine Street
Who would ever believe this place of peace would be located right off the downtown beat
I have been blessed to find the Sarah Center and meet all the Sarah Center Girls
I just wish that there were more places of this statue all over the world
So I hope I can just pass the blessing on to those who may be lonely and bored
And be able to open the door to those lost souls who feel their being ignored
Come into the Sarah Center and meet all the many women of different cultures and pray
That your day may be fulfilled by the grace of God in the Sarah Center each and everyday

Intel

JORDAN ANTOINE WILSON

The hate crimes against my intelligence are growing intolerable
I live in a land of one billion sheep
Who's wool is constantly trying to be pulled
Over my eyes
There are none so blind as those who will not see
There are those who create the curriculum
And the criteria for a passing grade
However, these same disregard the very scale
On which they grade when the work is completed
And turned in
The only thing worse is that one can still feel
The need to perform for such ringmasters
But alas
I will forever keep my head on a swivel
Or at least try
And I will keep something dear to me on a pedestal.
That something is my intelligence, for it is my umbrella
On a rainy day
4-6-10



Congratulations Judge Painter!

Cincinnati judge holds court at United Nations

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE OHIO BAR ASSOCIATION

Judge Mark Painter of Cincinnati is one of seven judges, and the only American, to serve on a new internal justice system within the United Nations. Painter says the position came about after he answered a want ad for the new U.N. Appeals Tribunal.

"I sent my resume to an e-mail listed in the ad, thinking, 'They want seven people from the whole world and I'll never hear anything more'

from this." To his surprise, Judge Painter was contacted. The vetting process ended with a vote by the U.N. General Assembly.

Judge Painter is preparing to attend the fourth session of the court, to be held Feb. 28-March 11 in New York City. The inaugural session was held last spring in Geneva, Switzerland, and two other sessions were held during 2010 in New York. Cases have included disputes over promotions, discipline, and pensions.

The court is internationally diverse, with judicial representatives from France, Argentina, Ghana, India, Uruguay and Ireland. Judge Painter says the judges get along quite well. "At first, there was a concern because four of us are

from common law countries and three are from civil law countries. But we haven't had any problem harmonizing and coming to the right conclusions on the cases." He adds that out of the first 100 cases decided last year, there have been only two dissents.

The judges will have non-renewable seven-year terms, but because Judge Painter is among those appointed for an initial term of three years, he may be re-appointed for seven more years when the current term concludes next year.

Judge Painter was an elected trial and appellate judge for 27 years. He currently serves as an adjunct professor at the University Of Cincinnati College Of Law, where he earned his law degree in 1973.

He has also been a speaker for Ohio State Bar Association continuing legal education courses on the art of legal writing.

The Ohio State Bar Association, founded in 1880, is a voluntary association representing approximately 25,000 members of the bench and bar of Ohio as well as nearly 4,000 legal assistants and law students. Through its activities and the activities of its related organizations, the OSBA serves both its members and the public by promoting the highest standards in the practice of law and the administration of justice.

A video interview with Judge Painter is available on the Ohio State Bar Association's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/ohiobar.



Cartoon: Washington "Park"
By: Eddie Sun

Shelter: Women and Children

Central Access Point	381-SAFE
Cincinnati Union Bethel	768-6907
300 Lytle Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Bethany House	557-2873
1841 Fairmount Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45214	
Grace Place Catholic Worker House	681-2365
6037 Cary Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45224	
Salvation Army	762-5660
131 E. 12th Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
YWCA Battered Women's Shelter	872-9259

St. Francis Soup Kitchen	535-2719
Churches Active in Northside	591-2246
4230 Hamilton Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45223	
FreeStore/FoodBank	241-1064
112 E. Liberty Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Madisonville Ed & Assistance Center	271-5501
4600 Erie Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45227	
Serves area codes: 45226, 45227, 45208, 45209	
St. Vincent de Paul	562-8841
1125 Bank Street, Cinti, Ohio 45214	

Crossroad Health Center	381-2247
5 E. Liberty St. Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Health Resource Center	357-4602
Homeless Mobile Health Van	352-2902
McMicken Dental Clinic	352-6363
40 E. McMicken Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Mental Health Access Point	558-8888
Mercy Franciscan at St. John	981-5800
1800 Logan St. Cinti, Ohio 45202	
NAMI of Hamilton County	458-6670
PATH Outreach	977-4489

Treatment: Men

Charlie's 3/4 House	784-1853
2121 Vine Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Prospect House	921-1613
682 Hawthorne Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45205	
Starting Over	961-2256

Treatment: Women

First Step Home	961-4663
2203 Fulton, Cinti, Ohio 45206	

Treatment: Both

Anthony House (Youth)	961-4080
2728 Glendora Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45209	
Caracole (HIV/AIDS)	761-1480
1821 Summit Road, Cinti, Ohio 45237	
Drop Inn Center	721-0643
217 W. 12th Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Interfaith Hospitality Network	471-1100
Lighthouse Youth Center (Youth)	221-3350
3330 Jefferson, Cinti, Ohio 45220	

AA Hotline	351-0422
CCAT	381-6672
830 Ezzard Charles Dr, Cinti, Ohio 45214	
Joseph House (Veterans)	241-2965
1522 Republic Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Hamilton County ADAS Board	946-4888
Recovery Health Access Center	281-7422
Sober Living	681-0324
Talbert House	641-4300

Sober Living	681-0324
Talbert House	641-4300

Advocacy	
Catholic Social Action	421-3131
Community Action Agency	569-1840
Contact Center	381-4242
1227 Vine Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Franciscan JPIC	721-4700
Gr. Cinti Coalition for the Homeless	421-7803
117 E. 12th Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Intercommunity Justice & Peace Cr.	579-8547
Legal Aid Society	241-9400
Ohio Justice & Policy Center	421-1108
Faces Without Places	363-3300
Stop AIDS	421-2437

Mathews House	859-261-8009
Homeless & Housing Coalition	859-727-0926
Parish Kitchen	859-581-7745
Pike St. Clinic	859-291-9321
Transitions, Inc	859-491-4435
Welcome House of NKY	859-431-8717
205 West Pike Street, Covington, KY 41011	
Women's Crisis Center	859-491-3335
VA Domiciliary	859-559-5011
VA Homeless	859-572-6226

Housing:

CMHA	721-4580
Excel Development	632-7149
OTR Community Housing	381-1171
114 W. 14th Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Tender Mercies	721-8666
27 W. 12th Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Tom Geiger House	961-4555
Dana Transitional Bridge Services	751-0643
Volunteers of America	381-1954
Anna Louise Inn	421-5211

Food/Clothing	
Lord's Pantry	621-5300
OTR/Walnut Hills Kitchen & Pantry	961-1983
OTR: 1620 Vine Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Walnut Hills: 2631 Gilbert, Cinti, Ohio 45206	
Our Daily Bread	621-6364
1730 Race Street, Cinti, Ohio 45220	

Health	
Center for Respite Care	621-1868
3550 Washington Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45229	

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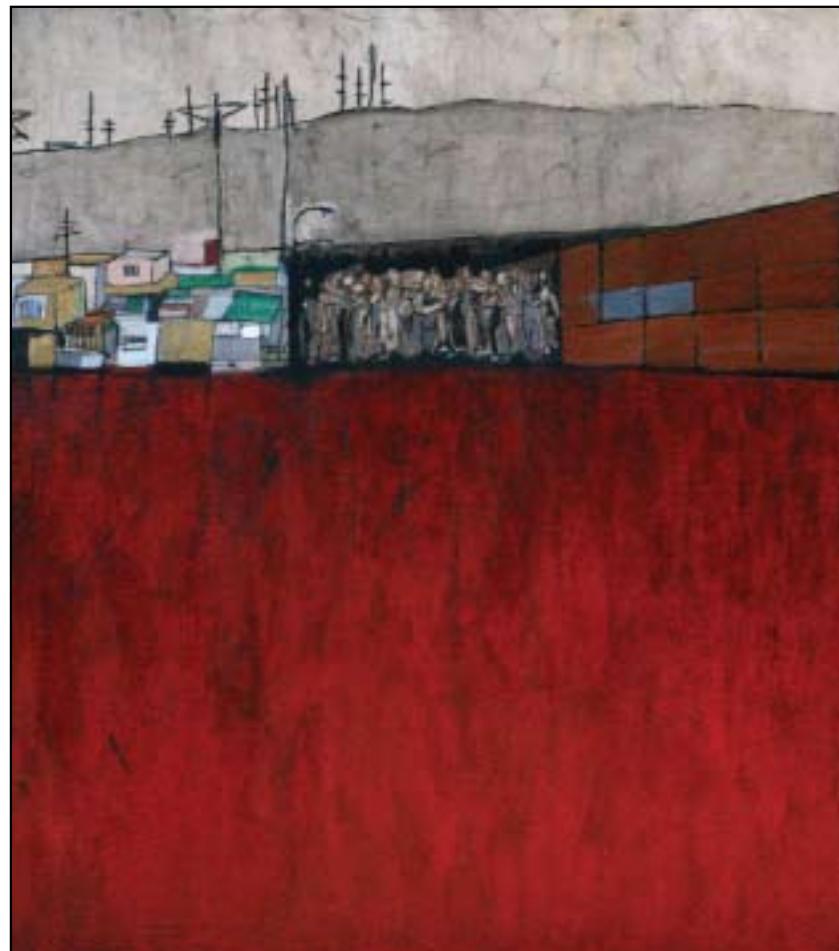
In her art, Kim Shifflett questions arbitrary boundaries

A recurrent theme in Kim Shifflett's artwork is that of boundaries. They range from boundaries imposed by societal rules and expectations, delineating roles and behaviors in such matters as gender, relationships, families, deciding good from bad, to actual physical borders that separate and isolate people, leading to poverty, violence and conflict.

Artists as Activists

By SAAD GHOSN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Born in Champaign, IL, Shifflett grew up in Las Cruces, NM, near Ciudad Juarez on the other side of the Mexican divide. It was at a time when flow between the 2 countries was welcome and safe and when crossing the border was a daily enjoyable adventure; she often accompanied her friends and mother to party or shop on Mexican soil. Shifflett was also interested in art very early on, drawing constantly, her talents encouraged by teachers and family.



Trapped, oil painting. Painting and Photo by Kim Shifflett

At the age of 18 she left New Mexico, settled for few years in Tucson, AZ, moved to Lexington, KY, and then finally to Cincinnati, OH. Along the way she married twice, bore children, learned to weave and knit, started a needlework design business, pursued her art education. She earned a BFA degree from the Art Academy of Cincinnati and a MFA degree in painting from the University of Cincinnati.

In undergrad, older than most of her classmates, she felt less free, having to juggle her role as wife and mother with her study demands and aspirations for a professional career.

"At home I was always expected to do the 'women chores', cooking, cleaning, taking care of the kids, tending to everyone else's needs," she says. "I always came last. People would even make me feel selfish for wanting to be in school."

In a traditional society built mostly around men's convenience, she found herself fighting for her interests, having constantly to redefine and assert who she was. The theme of feminism then permeated her work. She did a series of semi-abstract paintings on relationships, women in the family, all the push-and-pull they daily experience. The images were based on round balls, one of them representing her; they would also be accompanied by statements to clarify her message.

In *Tomato Soup Family*, for instance, she is a big red ball at the bottom, pushed away by 2 other balls on the top, one being her husband, the other her daughter.

She later expanded her series to address more specifically her relationship with her teenage daughter. They were both struggling for independence, yet her daughter demanding, needy and rebellious at the same time. The abstract paintings in the series were done using Elmer's glue and graphite, Elmer's glue in her mind associated with the school classroom, thus connected to her daughter.

In *I Hate You Mom but Can You Please Take Me and My Friends to the Mall*, she reflects on the expectations and tasks she's supposed to meet just for being a mother; and in *Stony Silence because I Said No*, related to not letting her 14 year old daughter go to a slumber party at a 16 year old boy's house, on how these expectations were only used when they suited her child.

Between undergrad and grad school, Shifflett worked on another series related to flowers usually considered weeds. Travelling down the interstate to get to her studio she would often admire along the way large patches of beautiful and colorful flowers just to find them the following day mowed away.

"I felt every time violated," she says, "like if someone was deliberately destroying my favorite garden. Why would a flower in a certain setting have value and beauty and in others not. Who decides what is good or equal? Unfortunately by drawing arbitrary lines, our society often contributes to abusive control and prejudice."



Kim Shifflett in her studio. Photo by Saad Ghosn

She did colorful paintings of black-eyed Susan, corn flowers, other 'weed' flowers she had encountered, one painting for each month from spring to early winter. She used on purpose very large canvases to draw in the viewer and give added importance to their subject.

Halfway through grad school, Shifflett went back to visit her parents in Las Cruces. Wanting to return like in the old good times to Ciudad Juarez she was strongly discouraged by her sister who shared with her the ongoing violence in the border town, the hundreds of working women found dead for no reason, the daily killings due to the drug wars, the desperate prevailing poverty. She was appalled not to have heard about it on the news. Doing her research she discovered the truth of the new reality and embarked on a new series of paintings, *Borderlands*.

Her large and somber painting *Trash Town* is a commentary on the effect of NAFTA on the lives of hundreds of thousands of Mexicans who, in order to find better paying jobs, relocated to the border cities where new factories had opened. Unfortunately they were met with nonexistent infrastructure, no electricity, water or sewage, and ended up living among trash in shanty towns, the for-profit companies not concerned with their well-being.

The killing Field was based on the massacre of 73 to-be illegal immigrants who, before reaching the USA, were kidnapped by drug cartels, held for ransom and killed, their families not able to pay.

Trapped is in response to the escalating violence in bordering towns, people becoming prisoners in their own homes, trapped and squeezed between an obstructive border fence, terrorizing drug lords, daily danger, and poverty. It was also related to similar imagery and background she had experienced on a recent trip to the West Bank, Palestinians impeded in their daily living by a big dividing wall, numerous checkpoints, long lines and queues, omnipresent occupation. Shifflett had travelled to the Middle East to help Bedouin women improve their weaving technique and find opportunities to better market their product.

"We're all alike," says Shifflett. "Women, environment, border conflicts, are universal issues that touch all of us. When I disagree with something, I use my art to raise awareness, start and facilitate a dialogue, hopefully promote change. My art is compassionate. I strongly identify with immigrants who leave their country wanting better chance, education and living; with burdened women and mothers; with devalued 'weed' flowers; with 'invisible', victimized individuals in our society."